

SUDDEN DEATH OF A SHIP'S CAPTAIN. – On Monday morning an inquest was held at the Gem-inn, Hill-street, before the deputy coroner, E. F. BLAKE, esq., upon the body of James BARRETT, the captain of the steam ship Louise, bound from Africa to Dunkirk, and laden with grain. It appears that about 8 o'clock on Sunday night the ship was passing the "Nab," and the deceased (a man about 55 years of age) was standing on the bridge giving orders. One of the men called out that there was a light a-head, and deceased told the second mate to go and tell the man at the wheel to alter the course, which was done. When the second mate returned he saw the deceased fall backwards and struggle as if in a fit. The second mate at once went to his assistance, and the chief mate being called, the captain was taken down into the cabin, but he was then quite dead. The deceased had always been a healthy man, but had complained a short time previous to his death of pains in his chest, but attributed it to having just eaten a hearty meal. Mr. Alfred WOODWARD made a *post mortem* examination, and at the inquest deposed that the deceased had a very large stomach and a large fat weak heart, which was the cause of death.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes." We may add that in consequence of the confusion on board the vessel owing to the sudden death of the captain, the vessel ran on shore on the sands off Ryde. She was extricated next day.
